



THE

# KALIFORNSKI



Since 1979

NEWSLETTER OF THE YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

# 55

January 1984

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EDITOR: ANDY GULERMOVICH (722-0622)

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: JANET (PELICH) JUSTUS (722-0580)



## Lockovic

Ivan Lockovic is one of several Yugoslav artists whose works have created a renewed interest in "naive" art. The scene shown above is a detail from a much wider painting by Lockovic which shows an idyllic winter in a village of his youth and complements the article by Marlene Radovich found on page 7.



## WELCOME ABOARD

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to officially welcome Jan (Pelich) Justus as Associate Editor of THE KALIFORNSKI. Jan, a long time member of YACO, has had considerable experience in typesetting newsletters. She brings a new and more sophisticated look to our newsletter. Thank you very much, Jan, for calling and volunteering your services. It's greatly appreciated.

I would also like to welcome Sneaky Pete to THE KALIFORNSKI. His wit, style, and experience in writing for other periodicals are a real asset to our paper. Welcome aboard, Sneaky Pete!!

Speaking of Sneaky Pete, his first column last month has already generated avid interest regarding his mini-list of Yugoslav business owners. It has been suggested that we attempt to compile a more complete listing of the latter. While this undertaking deserves serious research, I would like to get the ball rolling by offering the following short list. I hope readers of this column will participate in this project by submitting to the Editor additional names of Yugoslav business owners who play such a vital role in strengthening the economy of our valley.

Carl Prnjak - Carl's Saw Shop  
Luke (Bud) Scurich - Watsonville Insurance Associates  
Antone and Mary Basich - The Apple Bin  
Zarko Radich and Jack Novcich - Jack's Cigar Store  
Louie Ivanovich - Central Roofing and Insulation Co.  
Vince and Lucy Kovacich - Del Monte Cafe  
Pete Gulermovich - Pete's Auto Repair  
Joe Odjak - Mity-Nice Bakery  
Pansy Scurich - Smokey Pete Sausage Co.  
Steve Zalac - Watsonville Tire Co.  
Johnny Kusanovich - Johnny Boy's  
Jim and Carol Ivelich - The Produce Place  
Marty and Rocky Franich - Marty Franich Ford  
Chuck Sambraillo - Sambraillo Paper Co.  
Jim Arnerich - Arnerich Realty  
Mary Sglav - Sglav Realty

P.S. - Gotcha, Sneaky Pete! It's Gizdich, not Grizdich.

Andy Gulermovich  
Editor

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Issue Number 55, January 1984.

## YACO OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	
Nick Castelan .....	724-7131
VICE-PRESIDENT	
Emme Colendich .....	724-6986
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Fran Colendich .....	722-0151
TREASURER	
Geri (Derpich) Heebner .....	728-2666
PUBLICITY DIRECTOR	
Molly Resetar .....	722-1066

## BUSINESS MEETING

WHEN - January 8, 1984  
Sunday, 7:00 P.M.

WHERE - VFW Hall  
1960 Freedom Blvd.  
Watsonville, CA.

WHO - YACO members, friends and relatives.

PROGRAM: Following a short business meeting, we will have an introductory Kolo lesson. The instruction provided by PAT GULERMOVICH will allow you, in one short lesson, to participate in the fun of dancing the Kolo. This is your chance to join in and to learn just how easy the basic steps are. If this proves to be successful, we will do it again.



# YACO

## PROUDLY PRESENTS

# THE SINOVI ORCHESTRA

OF CHICAGO

appearing in concert

AT

Kennedy Youth Center

2401 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville

## SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25, 1984

### A DOUBLE TREAT

THE CONCERT BY THIS TALENTED  
GROUP WILL START AT 7:30 P.M.

SINOVI WILL PLAY MUSIC FOR OUR  
DANCING PLEASURE — 9 P.M. to 1

**Food —** Kobasica sandwiches and Calamari sandwiches will be available to purchase. Coffee, of course, will be complimentary.

**Bar —** The bar will open at 6 p.m. until 10 minutes prior to the concert. It will reopen following the concert.

**Tickets —** \$10 per person. Due to limited seating, Advance Ticket Sales only. No tickets will be sold at the door.

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*The oldest olive tree on the Montenegrin Littoral, its age estimated at about 2,000 years.*

*Photo by D. J. POPOVIC*

### Olive Trees in Yugoslavia

Submitted by Irene Strazicich

When I was in Yugoslavia, I saw so many old olive trees and wondered why young trees were not being planted. I have since learned that today Yugoslavia must import great quantities of olive oil from Spain, Tunisia, and other Mediterranean countries. This seems unbelievable when at the beginning of the 19th century the island of Brac alone produced 2½ times the present output of all Yugoslavia (about 8,000 tons of olive oil).

Since the beginning of historical times the olive tree has been cultivated in its native Asia Minor. From there it spread to all Mediterranean lands. When the Greeks settled along the Adriatic, they always planted olive trees which they dedicated to the goddess Athene. Their worship of the olive tree was handed down to the later Slav inhabitants. There are large numbers of old trees scattered throughout Yugoslavia, especially in Dalmatia.

The tree is hardy and has been known to live and bear fruit for many centuries. It was nicknamed the Methuselah of trees and is often mentioned in myth and legends. These ancient trees have seen the coming, rise, and fall of many invaders. After centuries they send out shoots and bear fruit. Their branches are a symbol of peace.

The recovery of olive growing is being helped by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). It has given \$800,000 for technical and financial assistance. Up-to-date plant nurseries, experimental refineries, and even the introduction of olive-picking machines and special tractors to reduce labor are being tried. Already an average pick of 30K of olives is obtained as compared to the previous average of 4K per tree.

It is hoped that in these ways the olive will once more become a principal product of Yugoslavia.

From an article by B. Aleksic in *Yugoslav Review*, 1980.



# HARMONIJA



HARMONIJA KAPERS

By Pat Gulermovich

I'm filling in for Naida Nicholas this month as she has not been feeling well. Happily, I'm able to say that she is much better and you should be hearing from her again next month.

This past month has been a very busy and joyous one for HARMONIJA. On December 10th, we performed twice in one day. The first being for Pajaro East Convalescent Hospital at their annual Christmas Bazaar. We were the only group to perform for them and it gave each of us a great deal of satisfaction to be able to bring music and cheer to these delightful people. Later, that evening, we performed again before YACO which is always a pleasure. As music is a vital ingredient in our culture, we endeavor to preserve the songs that brought so much joy to the Slavonians who came here before us. It is our hope that you enjoy listening to these songs as much as we enjoy singing them.

December 16th, we performed at the Knights of Columbus Annual Christmas Dinner. What a delightful time! The highlight of the evening, in my opinion, was the standing ovation that the Knights of Columbus gave Helen Vukovich. She is the mother of YACO Secretary Mary Bronner and lives in San Pedro. Her song about the Baby Jesus brought the Knights to their feet in applause. The evening was enjoyed by all.

Our last performance this month was on December 17th at St. Patrick's Church in Watsonville. We sang Christmas Carols during the Mass. It was very surprising to me to note the applause that we received in church when the Mass was over.

Lest you think that all we do is practice and to perform, we also enjoy getting together socially. After church on the 17th, we gathered together for our 3rd Annual Christmas Party. We ate, drank, listened to tapes of our performances, sang a few songs and danced a few kolos. Many thanks to Mary Ann Salinovich for organizing the dinner this year.

After our dinner, we presented our director, Marlene Radovich, with a gift to show our appreciation for her dedication, patience and hard work. I don't know how many people are aware of all the work done by Marlene. She spends countless hours obtaining and arranging our music and opens her home for our practice every Monday night. I, for one, am truly appreciative of her contributions in helping to preserve "our" culture.

We are looking forward, now, to performing for the Chamber of Commerce at their Annual Awards Banquet on January 14, 1984.

On behalf of HARMONIJA, I wish all in YACO a very HAPPY and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!



## VESELI SELJACI NEWS

By Nancy Bjeletich

Thoughts for the New Year: First we want to wish a happy holiday to all our friends who still have January 7th and Serbian Orthodox Christmas to look forward to. Secondly, we wish to reflect upon 1983 and conclude that it was a pretty good year with a lot of memorable activities and continued growth. Finally, we would like to thank again all those who have supported us during the past year. Many of you are old friends to the Veseli Seljaci, but each year we gain new friends. We are eternally grateful for your moral, physical and financial support, and hope that you will remain faithful to us in 1984.

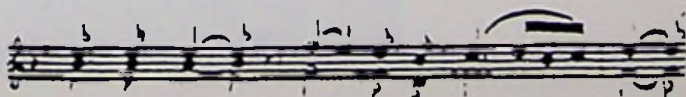
While we are giving credit where it is due let us not forget to give thanks to our "fabulous three"; our directors, Caroline Bahr, Kathy Sulaver, and Al Bahr. Without you we would have nothing.

Looking ahead over the next few months in 1984 we have many exciting projects that are already underway. Our concert, which will be held in March, is already foremost in our minds and songs are in the selection and practice stage. We prepare two hours of totally new music and dance for each year's program. That requires a year-long effort. Our entire organization, from our children's beginner dance and orchestra groups through our intermediate and advanced dancers and Santa Clara Valley Tamburitians and adult Veseli Seljaci orchestra perform at this annual event in March. Date, times, and location will be announced in future issues of the Kalifornski.

We are also very excited about presenting Duquesne University's phenomenal TAMBURITZANS at Flint Center, DeAnza College, in Cupertino on Saturday, May 12. Watch for news of this event, as we expect capacity crowds this year and you will want to order your tickets early.

Finally, in this much-longer-than-usual article we want to pay tribute to Y.A.C.O. and the wonderful job it is doing of preserving our Yugoslav culture. May you have continued success in 1984!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!





# **Thanks**

Another, I hope, successful dinner has come and gone. It always makes it so much easier to do a good job when you have very capable and willing workers as I had. I had one "young" lady who peeled potatoes and cleaned onions and probably did more than the rest of us. She was also a delight to have in the kitchen. This lady was Mrs. Made Colendich, 90 years young! I only wish we had had a camera at that time. A special PUNO HVALA to you Mrs. Colendich!

Once again, I would like to thank my helpers..... Jerry, Jim, Molly, and Gloria Resetar, Emme Colendich, Walter Zurowski (a new member and a very hard worker). Cecil Hamblin, Fran Colendich, Elena Derpich, Joyce Kusanovich, Nick Castelan, and a very special thanks to my partner Jerry Gospodnetich. I know I am forgetting some of you, but please forgive me. Another thanks to Jerry Resetar for the use of his pickup for three days. I don't know too many people who would be that generous. I would like to thank Bud Bakich on behalf of YACO for the donation of all the lettuce for the salad. There are three other people who deserve to be thanked, for without their pots and pans, the dinner would have been an impossibility. So to Bill Hagins, Tasos Petroutsas, and Joe Odjak...PUNO HVALA to all! So, hopefully until next year, Merry Christmas to all the YACO members.

Ron Hill



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## **Yugoslav Radio Hour**

Remember to listen to the YUGOSLAV RADIO HOUR every Sunday at 9:35 a.m. on radio station KOMY, 1340 on your dial. ANDY & ANN SOLDI are your hosts and bring you the finest in old favorites as well as the latest music from Yugoslavia. They will play any request whether it be for a birthday, anniversary or any special announcement. LISTEN EVERY SUNDAY!!!!

## **Our Cultural Heritage**



By Marlene Radovich

When your family gathers together for a traditional roast pork dinner during the Christmas season, you are actually observing an "old country" custom. The richest group of traditions or customs in Yugoslavia occur between Christmas and New Year. At this festive time of the year, special food, such as roast pork, is prepared, and Christmas pastries are laid on the table. Homes are adorned with evergreens and a tree is cut and decorated. The ornamented Christmas tree was adopted in Yugoslavia under the Austrian influence around the middle of the 19th century. In a previous column, I talked about the magic associated with Yugoslavia's old watermills. In several areas of the country, the villagers observe an old Christmas custom of presenting the well water with an apple, money, cake, or a lighted candle.<sup>1.)</sup>

In Yugoslavia, the week between Christmas and the New Year is traditionally a time of visiting family and friends, and wishing them health and prosperity in the New Year. In some regions of Yugoslavia, groups of well-wishers, called "koledari,"<sup>2.)</sup> would make the rounds of the village homes singing Christmas carols in exchange for gifts of food and drink. This delightful custom dates back to antiquity. I remember fondly a Christmas tradition in Watsonville's Yugoslavian community, when the men in the family would visit each other's homes on Christmas morning. They would extend to their friends warm wishes for health and happiness in the coming year. They were carrying on an "old country" tradition. Over the years, their numbers have dwindled to just a few persevering traditionalists. Maybe this Christmas season will see a revival of this lovely holiday custom!

1.) The Folk Arts of Yugoslavia, published by Duquesne University Tamburitzans Institute of Folk Arts, 1976.

2.) Young people who sang kolede, secular Christmas songs.

3.) The picture accompanying my column is shown on the cover page. Ivan Lockovic, a native of the Podravina region of Yugoslavia, painted this idyllic village of his youth.

### **NOTICE**

The KALIFORNSKI is YOUR publication. If there are particular types of articles or subjects relating to the Yugoslav heritage that you would like to see in future issues, or if you have material you would like to submit, please contact Andy Gulerovich c/o The KALIFORNSKI, YACO, P.O. Box 226, Watsonville, CA 95077.





## YUGOSLAV AIRLINES

JAT NEWS - WINTER 1983/84

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### SEASON'S GREETINGS - ROUND TRIP FARE

Season's Greetings fare\* is being introduced effective November 1, 1983 through March 31, 1984. Starting as low as \$499.00 for a round trip from Chicago and New York to Yugoslavia, this fare allows a minimum stay of seven days to a maximum stay of twelve days. From Los Angeles this fare starts at \$789.00.

### OTHER FARES TO/FROM YUGOSLAVIA

All our fares are the same or even lower than last winter. This is a big advantage when using Yugoslav Airlines. Here are some round trip fares:

- Los Angeles to: Ljubljana, Zagreb or Belgrade - \$994.00
- Los Angeles to: Dubrovnik, Split, Zadar, Rijeka or Pula - \$1,025.00
- Los Angeles to: Skopje, Titograd, Ohrid, Tivat or Pristina - \$1,040.00
- One way fare from Los Angeles to Ljubljana, Zagreb or Belgrade - \$527.00

### YUGOSLAV AIRLINES SERVICE FROM U.S.A. - WINTER 1983/84

- Four times weekly directly from New York to Belgrade
- Two times weekly non-stop to Zagreb (Tues., Sat.)
- One time weekly non-stop to Ljubljana (Thurs.), one time via Belgrade
- One time weekly directly from Chicago via Zagreb (Tues.) to Belgrade
- One time weekly directly from Chicago via Ljubljana (Thurs.) to Belgrade

All our flights have immediate connections to the cities on the Adriatic coast.

### OTHER ADVANTAGES

- Passengers originating on the west coast will have their baggage accepted under the regulations of the domestic carrier they will use to/from New York
- Yugoslav Airlines passengers staying in Yugoslavia three weeks or more are offered significant discounts of up to fifty percent, when renting a car through Kompas/Hertz Rent-A-Car.
- Gas coupons are available with a ten percent discount through our office
- Free drinks and headsets for music and movies on all trans-Atlantic flights
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# the **SNEAKY PETE** show

**DINNER BELLES:** An appreciative tip of the hat and a hearty "job well done" to Ron Hill, Jerry Gospodnetich and their helpers for all the work they put into preparing the delicious roast pork dinner on December 10th — BUT . . . *a sweeping low bow and a kiss of all their dainty fingertips* to the beautiful YACO "belles" who handled serving, decorating and general "putting-it-together." It would be too long a list to mention everyone by name, so — without meaning to slight anyone not mentioned — here are just a few of the many notes on the women who helped with that memorable December dinner:

As usual at these YACO events, a particularly lovely trio of particularly helpful YACO girls were among those seen serving the food. Their families can be justifiably proud of the charm, dependability and involvement (as well as the good looks) of Lena Derpich, Laurie Heebner and Joyce Kusanovich. The three can always be counted on to add a special touch to our YACO festivities.

Going from the "Tantalizing Trio" to a "Dynamic Duo," I'll next mention Olga Castelan and Kay Butier, who were responsible for the beautiful Christmas tree at the party. Kay donated the tree from her Christmas tree farm, and Olga took care of decorating it. Lovely! (. . . the tree, as well as the ladies.)

Speaking of decorating — Geri Heebner was responsible for the party decorations. They contributed a lot of the touches which made the party such a special event. And another lovely lady who added to the "special-ness" of the evening was Slavica Kusanovich, who did another of her fantastic jobs in securing the help of so many good YACO cooks to provide all those beautiful and delicious cakes and other goodies for the dinner. Next, I have to mention Donna Castelan, who was noted helping her husband Mike and John Colendich with the liquid refresh-

ments. And I can't neglect to mention another member of the Castelan clan — young Deana Hanson — granddaughter of YACO President Nick Castelan. This little doll was her usual "all-around" help and could be seen warming all with her cheerful smile as she manned the table selling raffle tickets and refreshment tickets.

BUT — saving the best for last — with all of the YACO lovelies who contributed so much to the Christmas get-together, the hands-down winner as "loveliest of young lovelies" at the party had to be 90 years young Made Colendich, who shared the load in the kitchen, helping Ron and Jerry by peeling the potatoes and onions. When the stove went on the blink in the middle of cooking the dinner, the wonderful spirit of this young lady was a big help in making the frustrating hour during repair of the stove much less agonizing for Ron, Jerry and everyone else.

**OOPS . . . !** : Even without mentioning the names of all who helped make the Christmas dinner so successful, I've run out of space. So, a couple of quick items and I'll hold everything else until next month.

Briefly — John Biskup and his mother, Margaret, will be in Yugoslavia during January — Rumor has it that Zarko Radich of Jack's Cigar Store might start carrying a line of Yugoslav records and tapes — YACO Publicity Director Molly Resetar and husband Jim will be adding to YACO's membership when their new baby is born sometime next summer — Belated 25th Anniversary congratulations to Antone and Mary Basich (I know, it was last October, but "fercryin' outloud," I wasn't doing this column then!) — and a more timely 1st Anniversary (New Year's Eve) congratulations to Jan (Pelich) Justus and hubby Dale Skillicorn. (Dale maintains he went for a New Year's Eve wedding date so he'll never have to worry that he might forget a celebration on their future anniversaries.)

Until next month —

**HAVE A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**

AT  
THE  
YACO  
CHRISTMAS  
PARTY . . . . .



*Jerry Gospodnetich's  
SANTA CLAUS made  
it a special occasion,  
bringing the magic of  
Christmas for the kids.*



# Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report As Of December 19, 1983

By Geri Derpich Heebner

## INCOME:

Pre-paid dinner tickets 12-10-83	\$1,810.00
Member renewals	204.00
New members	43.00
Ad Renewal	80.00
Interest earned	54.33
Bar: 12-10-83	663.00
Raffle: 12-10-83	273.00
Change: re-deposit 12-10-83	200.00
Meat sales: 12-10-83	20.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$3,347.53</b>

## EXPENSES:

Emme Colendich:	
liquor lisc. 12-10-83	\$ 25.00
John Colendich:	
liquor/mix/wine 12-10-83	521.24
Nick Castelan:	
table cover/napkins 12-10-83	48.64
Ron Hill: food 12-20-83	99.78
American Cancer Society:	
donation/Mr. Ebie	30.00
Mid-Valley Supply: utensils 12-10-83	87.06
CASH: Change 12-10-83	200.00
Geri Heebner: candles/postage 12-10-83	25.00
Glacier Bay Ice Co.: Ice 12-10-83	26.25
Angelo Sparacino: Music 12-10-83	400.00
Kennedy Center: rental 12-10-83	250.00
Portugese Cleaners: 12-10-83 cleaning	120.00
Mary Bronner: 3 trees-raffle 12-10-83	29.23
Sasha Radich: rent/storage	35.00
Fran Colendich: toys 12-10-83	37.66
Corralitos Market: meat 12-10-83	340.98
Pedro: clean-up kitchen 12-10-83	40.00
Andy Gulermovich: stereo set-up	92.58
Gas for pick-up	14.60
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,422.97</b>

Checking Account: P.V. Bank	\$10,060.51
Time Certificate: V. N. Bank	2,278.17
S.F. Federal S & L:	
Scholarship Fund	680.43
Building Fund	1,052.11
<b>TOTAL Y.A.C.O. FUNDS</b>	<b>\$14,071.22</b>

## NOTE from the Treasurer:

There will be a special report on our Christmas Dinner when all the bills are submitted. Also, \$478.00 was raised during our bake sale for the Scholarship Fund. Our total is now \$680.43, which includes interest. We are still accepting donations.

Thanks,  
Geri

# Thanks

Our December 10 Christmas Dinner was cooked by those great cooks, Ron Hill and Jerry Gospodnetich. Ron and Jerry really outdid themselves this time! The roast pork was succulent, the golden browned roasted potatoes, delicious, and the rest of the dinner equally good. This is all the more remarkable when you stop to consider that they had to contend with a stove that was on the blink. It really must have been difficult in the kitchen. Regardless, these two fine YACO members put out a great meal enjoyed by all. Many, many thanks to Ron and Jerry and to their helpers for a job very well done!!!

Andy Gulermovich



Dear YACO members,

This is a short note to thank some special people who helped decorate for our Christmas party. They are: the Basichs for the apples, Kay Butier for the tree and Olga Castelan, Lori Heebner Joyce Kusanovich, Molly Resetar, Katie Derpich, Lena Derpich, John Basor, Jennifer and Deann Resetar. Katie added a special touch by bringing us coffee and doughnuts. Thanks again to all for a job well done.

Sincerely,  
Geri Heeber,  
Decorating Committee Chairman



MANY THANKS

Once again, I would like to thank all of those wonderful YACO members who donated desserts for our Christmas Dinner on December 10, 1983. I enjoy very much chairing the Dessert Committee because I get to see how truly cooperative our YACO people are. The desserts are always delicious and much better than store bought goods.

Thank you one and all!

Slavica Kusanovich,  
Dessert Chairman



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and the staff  
of  
the Kalifornski  
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opportunity  
to wish  
all of you  
health  
and  
happiness  
for the New Year.*

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YACO was established in 1979 as a non-profit club without political or religious ties for the sole purpose of bringing together Yugoslavs and other interested persons to make known and to preserve our Slavic heritage. We are proud that among our membership we have families and individuals whose roots represent each region of present-day Yugoslavia, as well as non-slavic members who support the club's goals.

A year-around series of programs and events has proven an enjoyable way for YACO to provide its focus on Slavic heritage. Such activities include picnics, lectures and slide presentations on Yugoslavia and its historic culture, plus potluck and sitdown dinners. We also publish a monthly newsletter, THE KALIFORSKI, full of interesting articles, recipes, and news of our area's Yugoslav community.

Music is a very important part of our Slavic culture, so besides sponsoring a Tamburitza group and concerts, the club also has a choral group and folk dancers, including classes for anyone who would like to learn the traditional Slavic dances. As you can see, the club offers a wide variety of activities appealing to the entire family.

Won't you accept our invitation to join us? We're sure you'll soon find YACO to be one of your favorite clubs.

Our dues are as follows:

Single membership . . . . . \$12.00

Family membership . . . . . \$18.00

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Husband: \_\_\_\_\_

Wife: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

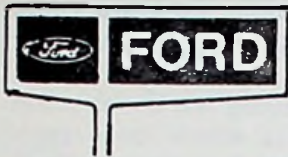
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